

Dec. 30, 2013 - Jan. 5, 2014
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

The open water that occurred earlier this week was short-lived as a frigid cold front moved across the state Thursday and Friday. Daytime highs on Friday were in the mid-upper teens resulting in ponds, shallow water areas and protected embayments on reservoirs freezing again. Outlook for the weekend is a short-lived warming trend followed by more snow coupled with single digit highs predicted across the state through mid-week. This will force remaining birds to concentrate on the few remaining regions of open water.

Ground counts are again sparse this week because of the holidays. Below is a list of counts from those areas staff were able to report on. The mid-winter survey is schedule to be flown the week of January 6.

Hunting outlook for the next week is bleak except for those with access to open water.

KDFWR wishes everyone a Happy New Year. Good hunting!

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	83,300 ducks 1,075 CG 6,300 WFG 2,000 SG	84% mallard, 7% ring-necked, 6% gadwall, remainder green-winged teal, shoveler, pintail and wood duck.	Past week, cold temps have kept birds on bigger bodies of water on both WMA's. Birds feeding in moist soil units. Snow Thursday morning dusted the ground, followed by falling temps. Outlook for the rest of week is cold. Temps getting down to 0. Recent rains, have replenished MSUs exposing new food for waterfowl.
Birdsville Island	No count		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	No Count		
Duck Island	No Count		
Boatwright WMA	27,850 ducks 22 CG	88% mallard, 11% pintail, 6% gadwall, remaining mixed dabblers.	Habitat on Boatwright WMA is similar to Ballard
Doug Travis WMA	700 ducks	98% mallard.	Flood waters receding. The area is 85% ice covered
Clear Creek WMA	No Count		
Peabody WMA	2,123 ducks 350 CG 2 coots 4 Swans	80% mallard, 15% diver 3 tundra and 1 trumpeter.	No habitat assessment provided.

Sloughs WMA	6,000 ducks 2,500 WFG 1,000 CG 115 Swan	70% gadwall, 30% mallard	Access to the lower bottoms limited due to flood. The river crested and started a slow fall.
Yellowbank WMA	1,350 ducks	90% mallard, remainder black duck, gadwall and pintail	Most birds on refuge. MSU's now frozen.
Hardin County	6 Sandhill Cr.		
Larue County	2,214 Sandhill Cr.		
Barren River Lake	No waterfowl count 3,411 Sandhill Cr.		Lake 533.9(8.9) down 0.7 ft in the last 24 hours, most SHC came in from the east.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	No count		
Herrington Lake	No count		
Taylorsville Lake	19 duck 40 CG	13 mallard, 5 hooded mergansers, 1 black duck.	Lake at winter pool, about 12 ac. exposed at Van Buren mud flat, MSUs and embayments frozen
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	No count		
Green River WMA	No count		
Cave Run Lake	No count		